

# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

Published Weekly by GEORGE W. YORK & CO., 144 & 146 E. Erie Street.

43d Year.

CHICAGO, ILL., DEC. 24, 1903.

No. 52.

WEEKLY



GUS DITTMER—(See page 821.)





PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

**GEORGE W. YORK & COMPANY**  
144 & 146 E. Erie St., Chicago, Ill.

Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.

EDITOR,  
**GEORGE W. YORK.**DEPT. EDITORS,  
DR. C. C. MILLER, E. E. HASTY, EMMA M. WILSON

## IMPORTANT NOTICES.

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## National Bee-Keepers' Association

## Objects of the Association:

1st.—To promote the interests of its members.  
2d.—To protect and defend its members in their lawful rights.  
3d.—To enforce laws against the adulteration of honey.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP, \$1.00.  
Send dues to Treasurer.

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**A Celluloid Queen-Button** is a very pretty thing for a bee-keeper or honey-seller to wear on his coat-lapel. It often serves to introduce the subject of honey, and frequently leads to a sale.  
The picture shown herewith is a reproduction of a motto queen-button that we are furnishing to bee-keepers. It has a pin on the underside to fasten it. Price, by mail, 6 cents; two for 10c; or 6 for 25 cents. Send all orders to the office of the American Bee Journal.



## Some Good Glubbing Offers.

As this is the time of year when most subscribers renew their subscriptions, we wish to call special attention to the following, which we are sure will commend themselves to all:

No. 1—	The Bee Journal and Dr. Miller's "Forty Years Among the Bees" (book alone, \$1.00).....	Both for \$1.75
No. 2—	The Bee Journal a year and Prof. Cook's "Bee-keeper's Guide," (book alone, \$1.20).....	" 2.00
No. 3—	The Bee Journal a year and Dadant's "Langstroth on the Honey-Bee," (book alone, \$1.20).....	" 2.00
No. 4—	The Bee Journal a year and Doolittle's "Scientific Queen-Rearing," (cloth bound) (book alone, \$1.00).....	" 1.75
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No. 6—	Bee Journal a year and Standard Untested Italian Queen (mailed in May or June, 1904) (Queen alone 75c).....	" 1.50
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## The Novelty Pocket-Knife.

Your Name and Address on one side—Three Bees on the other side.



[THIS CUT IS THE FULL SIZE OF THE KNIFE.]

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The Novelty Knife is indeed a novelty. The novelty lies in the handle. It is made beautifully of indestructible celluloid, which is as transparent as glass. Underneath the celluloid, on one side of the handle is placed the name and residence of the subscriber, and on the other side pictures of a Queen, Drone, and Worker, as shown here.

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How appropriate this knife is for a present! What more lasting memento could a mother give to a son, a wife to a husband, a sister to a brother, or a lady to a gentleman, the knife having the name of the recipient on one side?

The accompanying cut gives a faint idea, but cannot fully convey an exact representation of this beautiful knife, as the "Novelty" must be seen to be appreciated.

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**GEORGE W. YORK & CO.**

Chicago, Ill.

43 Please allow about two weeks for your knife order to be filled.

# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

ESTABLISH'D IN 1861

THE OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA

43d YEAR.

CHICAGO, ILL., DEC. 24, 1903.

No. 52.

## Editorial Comments

### The Merriest Christmas of All!

This is our wish to each one of the readers of the old American Bee Journal. May the gifts received and bestowed at this merry Christmas tide cause tender and loving thoughts in the hearts of both giver and recipient. It is the time of all the year when joy and happiness should prevail everywhere. That they may be in large measure in every home where goes the American Bee Journal, is also our earnest wish.

### Sections Filled With Foundation.

In a work under review, the British Bee Journal objects to the phrase, "sections filled with foundation," and thinks "filled" is a misprint for "fitted." On this side it is common to speak of sections filled with foundation, when, instead of a small starter of foundation, the section contains as much foundation as it is practicable to put in. Will our British cousin tell us how the same thing is expressed over there?

### Self-Hiving of Swarms.

A case of self-hiving is reported in Gleanings in Bee-Culture by G. W. Strangways. A colony with a clipped queen was placed on a stand about 18 inches high. An old hive made ready for the expected swarm was, by chance, left on the ground in front of the colony. One day it was discovered that this old hive was occupied, a swarm having issued and entered with its clipped queen without any one to witness the proceedings.

### Keep Your Colonies Strong.

This, called Oettl's Golden Rule, was considered so important by Father Langstroth, that in the closing words of his classic work, the following words are found:

"The essence of all profitable bee-keeping is contained in Oettl's Golden Rule: **KEEP YOUR COLONIES STRONG.**"

Latterly, considerable emphasis has been put upon the importance of knowing thoroughly one's honey-resources so as to have colonies strong at just the right time, without having a lot of useless consumers when there is nothing for them to do. In other words, Oettl's rule would be modified to read: *Keep your colonies as strong as possible when there is work in the fields, and keep down unnecessary numbers at other times.*

There is good sense on the side of this modification—theoretically, at least—for what good can it do to have an immense number of bees in a hive at a time when they have nothing to do but diminish the amount of stores in the larder? But is it a thing to be put in practice universally? Can one always know in advance just when numbers will be needed? In localities where there are frequent and rapid changes in the amount of nectar to be had, is it possible to make the frequent and rapid changes so as to have the number of fielders always correspond with the amount of the nectar offered?

So far from this being the case with S. E. Miller, he thinks the rule with him should be: *Keep your colonies always strong.* No

doubt the reasons that make this rule applicable with him make it equally appropriate for a good many others; and he gives thus his reasons in the Progressive Bee-Keeper:

I want them strong early in the season, so that they may be able to build up strong during fruit-bloom, so that they will be ready for the white clover bloom. During the white clover bloom I want to keep them strong, so that if there is a surplus to be gathered during the latter part of July and early August, they will be early for it. I want them strong about Aug. 1st to Aug. 15th, so that they will be ready for the autumn flow, which commences about Aug. 20th, or later; and I want them stronger when they go into the winter, for it is a well-known fact that strong colonies consume proportionately less quantities of stores than do weak colonies. Then, I want them strong early in the spring for the reason stated above, so that in my locality there is seldom a time that worker-bees will certainly become useless consumers, and should there be such a time I can not be sure that it is coming, in advance of its coming. Therefore, the rule with me must be, *Colonies always strong.*

Mr. Miller is broad-minded enough, however, to admit that what is true with him may not be equally true with others, and wisely adds:

From what I have said above, it is evident that no bee-keeper can be too well informed as to the resources of his own particular location.

### Staples for Fastening Hive-Bodies, Etc.

These seem to be coming into quite general use for fastening hive-bottoms and hive-bodies together, or for any other use where it is at times desirable to take away the fastening. The usual size of these staples is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide with points  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long. It is a question of some importance whether this is the best size. Would there be an advantage in having staples of larger dimensions? Would there be any greater security in a staple 2 inches wide? There is little question that points more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch would hold more securely. Such a staple will hold quite well if it be driven in full depth; but if driven in full depth it is hard to draw the staple afterward. If driven in to such a depth that something can easily be slipped in to draw it, it may sometimes happen that the staple will be loosened by the shaking on the wagon in going to or from the out-apriary, especially if the staples be new and smooth. What is the experience of our constituency? What is the best size for staples?

### Organizing Local Bee-Keepers' Associations.

We are often asked about starting a bee-keepers' association—how to go about it. The same question was brought up at the recent meeting of the Chicago-Northwestern convention. Perhaps a few words outlining the manner in which this flourishing association was started might be of interest, and also be a help to others who contemplate a similar movement.

In the first place, we published a call in the bee-papers for a meeting of all interested in bees, to be held at a certain place, and at a stated time. If we were in a country town, we would put such a call or notice in the local newspapers.

Then, on the appointed day, the thing to do is to get together and organize by electing a chairman or president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. Sometimes the last two offices are combined, making one person the secretary-treasurer.

In the absence of any special program, the best plan is to pass slips of blank paper around, and ask each one to write any question he may desire to have answered. Then the question slips are to be gathered up, and the president read each one, giving ample time, however, for a full reply by all who desire to take part in the discussion

After finishing the first lot of questions, pass around more slips of paper for questions, and so on until it is time to adjourn. This plan really makes the best convention. Very much depends, however, upon the president, whether the question program is a success or not.

For best results, we believe that no bee-keepers' convention should be held oftener than once a year. The bee-keepers in and around Chicago tried meeting twice a year, but it seemed to be a failure. The fall of the year is the best time, say the latter part of November and in December. Of course, there may be exceptional cases where two meetings a year are successful, but we believe in the majority of cases the annual meetings are best.

#### Driving Bees.

This is an important feature of bee-shows in England, prizes being offered for driving in the shortest time. Yet some are beginning to raise the question whether driving bees should not now be considered a thing of the past. From one point of view it seems a pity to have it discontinued in public exhibitions, as there are in England some who are very expert at it.

Very likely some, if not many, of the readers of these pages will ask, "What do you mean by 'driving bees,' anyhow?" It means the driving of bees from box-hives into movable-frame hives, and would, perhaps, be better understood by the term "transferring." Yet among the younger members of the craft, in this country, are many who have never seen the process of driving or transferring, for the very good reason that there are no opportunities for the performance, all the bees in their localities being already in hives with movable combs. Localities, however, may still be found in this country where the box-hive is yet in fashion.

#### The Life of Bees.

A fresh contribution to the subject is given by D. M. M., a prominent correspondent of the British Bee Journal. To a colony of black bees he gave an Italian queen June 6, liberating her June 7. Eggs were seen June 11. July 23, 50 percent of the bees were Italians; July 25, 75 percent; July 29, 90 percent. A few blacks were still seen Aug. 1, and all had disappeared Aug. 6. D. M. M. comments thus:

"It was marvellous to see how rapidly the blacks disappeared, especially during the last fortnight, when the decrease in numbers was something extraordinary. I calculated that, when the queen was inserted on June 6, the colony numbered 30,000 blacks; yet in 60 days they had all died out, showing an average mortality of about 500 bees per day. In the earlier weeks it was much less so; in the later ones it must have been very considerably greater."

If we assume that the black queen was removed June 6, that makes 61 days as the life of her latest descendant, supposing it died Aug. 6. That is much more than the six weeks generally accepted as the average life of a worker in the busy season. It is not fair, however, to take the latest survivor as a proper example of average longevity. Yet figure as we may, the data give no fair support to the belief that six weeks, or 42 days, is the average length of life. Six weeks from June 6 would give us July 18, when, according to the six-weeks rule, all the blacks should have disappeared, barring a few persistent hangers-on. But July 18 more than half the bees were still blacks. Even if we take July 29 as the time of the demise of the latest-born blacks, a time when a tenth of the blacks were still present, that will give us not less than 53 days as their lifetime.

Were these bees possessed of unusual longevity, or do our figures as to the lifetime of a worker, in the busy season, need overhauling? Perhaps this is a matter that should be taken up by the experiment stations.

**Honey as a Health-Food** is the name of a 16-page leaflet (3½ x 6 inches) which is designed to help increase the demand and sale of honey. The first part is devoted to a consideration of "Honey as Food," written by Dr. C. C. Miller. The last part contains "Honey-Cooking Recipes" and "Remedies Using Honey." It should be widely circulated by every one who has honey for sale. It is almost certain to make good customers for honey. We know, for we are using it ourselves.

**PRICES, prepaid**—Sample copy free; 10 for 20 cts.; 25 for 40 cts.; 50 for 70 cts.; 100 for \$1.25; 250 for \$2.25; 500 for \$4.00; 1000 for \$7.50. Your business card printed free at the bottom of the front page, on all orders for 100 or more copies. Send all orders to the Bee Journal office.

The Premiums we offer are all well worth working for. Look at them.

## Miscellaneous Items

**Mr. J. H. Kallmeyer**, of Wilson Co., Tex., has been strolling around Southern California lately.

**Mr. Geo. W. Riker**, of Lucas Co., Iowa, reports his crop of extracted honey for 1903 as 40,000 pounds from 300 colonies. Nothing small about that, surely.

**Mr. John M. Hooker**, a former prominent English bee-keeper, has been visiting Southern California recently. He seemed to be very much interested in their method of bee-keeping, and while there visited the apiaries nearest the city of Los Angeles, taking some snap shots with his eyes and camera.

**Mr. W. T. Richardson**, one of Southern California's best and most prominent apiarist for years past, has disposed of his three apiaries of 900 colonies, located in the Simi valley, and has gone East to reside. It is hoped that the change will result in his complete restoration to health, and his return to California.

**The Honey Crop** in the region of Lake Windemere, England, is very small this year, so it is reported. "The wet weather of the past summer has not agreed especially well with the Italian stock that has been introduced into that country." Wet weather seems to work disastrously in at least two ways to the bee-keeper. It prevents the flowers from yielding nectar, and also keeps the bees in the hives.

**Prof. Cook a National Director**.—A leading California bee-keeper wrote us as follows last week:

"As there will be several vacancies on the Board of Directors of the National Bee-Keepers' Association the coming year, I desire to suggest the name of Prof. A. J. Cook as one who would represent all sections."

Prof. Cook would be a strong member of the Board. He is greatly in favor of co-operation among bee-keepers, too.

**Father Wm. R. Graham**, of Hunt Co., Tex., passed away Nov. 27, 1903. He was the pioneer bee-keeper of his State. Dr. Wm. R. Howard, when sending us a picture and sketch of Mr. Graham, said of him:

"I first became acquainted with Mr. Graham and family in 1876. We were like brothers from our first meeting. No man was held in higher esteem by all who knew him. He was devoted to his friends, and their success was to him a joy which he could not suppress."

A little later on we will publish Mr. Graham's excellent picture and biographical sketch.

**Southern California Still Dry**.—A prominent Southern California bee-keeper wrote us Dec. 9:

"I note that W. A. Pryal is in great glee over the honey prospects in his section of the State, as the result of a copious rainfall. His intimation that the southern portion of the State has also been favored is a mistake, as we have had only a sprinkle of rain thus far, with the consequent result of many long-drawn faces among the bee-keepers of Southern California. Early rains, though, as a rule, are not of much benefit to the bee-keepers, and as our heavy fall usually takes place during the months of January, February and March, it is yet too early to predict a dry year for this section of the State."

**Bee-Tree the Property of the Land-Owner**.—Mr. Edwin Bevin, of Decatur Co., Iowa, sends us the following clipping:

**OSKALOOSA, IOWA**, Oct. 29.—The boys who cut down Henry Brandt's bee-tree and took down the honey have to pay for same. Judgment against two of the boys, Joe Holdsworth and Joe Griffith, was rendered in the sum of \$20 and costs, amounting to \$6.50, making a total of \$36.50 to be paid by the boys.

The case was brought by Henry Brandt, owner of the bee-tree. He sued for the sum of \$60. The boys located a bee-tree on the premises of the plaintiff. They cut it down and appropriated the honey. The plaintiff caused the arrest of the boys, and sought to recover the price of the property. He claimed that between 200 and 300 pounds of honey had been taken, and been destroyed.

In the adjudication of the case, the value of the tree cut down, was estimated at \$5.00, the corn destroyed by trampling \$1.00, value of two swarms of bees, \$5.00, and the value of the honey taken \$11—making a total of \$20. The

question of the ownership of wild bees was argued carefully. The defense claimed that the bees were the same as wild animals, and were open property, but the court did not find judgment in accordance with this theory.

Boys who destroy property and steal must expect to pay for it when caught. Perhaps if they had gone to the owner and proposed to divide up the honey, in case any was found in the tree, he would have consented to cutting down the tree, and possibly might have helped in the work. Of course, in view of the way it ended, it would have been much cheaper and easier for the boys to have gone to some bee-keeper and paid him a good price for 200 pounds of honey. "Stolen sweets" sometimes "come high," as those Iowa boys can testify.

The Annual Report of the General Manager of the National Bee-Keepers' Association for 1903 is on our desk. It is a pamphlet of 60 pages, 6x9 inches in size. It is illustrated with half-tone engravings of all the officers and members of the board of directors. It contains a list of the membership, some 1600 in number, besides some other interesting matter. The receipts for the year, including the amounts received from former officials, is \$1741.68; the expenditures were \$826.60, leaving a balance on hand of \$1115.08. But the expense of printing over 2000 copies of the present Report will reduce the balance several hundred dollars, probably.

The Report is mailed only to members of the Association, who will also ballot this month for three directors, a general manager, and on some amendments to the Constitution.

General Manager N. E. France is to spend the month of January among the bee-keepers of New York State. They will find him a very pleasant man to meet, rather quiet, but one who knows his business, and is not afraid to say what he thinks. He is doing good work as General Manager of the National Association, and should have all the support and encouragement possible in his work, which is mainly a labor of love, for the financial returns he receives personally out of the general management is simply nothing when compared with the amount of work he is doing for the good of bee-keeping here in America.

Mr. Wm. M. Whitney, of Walworth Co., Wis., wrote us as follows, Dec. 10:

**FRIEND YORK:**—Home again, and am feeling first-rate. We had a very enjoyable time at our Chicago-Northwestern convention. Never attended a better one. I shall continue my effort to form an organization of the bee-keepers here.

Say, ask "Nebraska Subscriber" (see pages 797 and 798) to have his picture taken when he gets his "toggery" all on. I just noticed his description of it in the Journal.

W.M. M. WHITNEY.

Yes, we will be pleased to put his picture in the American Bee Journal if he will have it taken with his "toggery" on and forward it to us.

## Sketches of Beedomites

### MR. GUS DITTMER.

Gus Dittmer was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1853. He came to the United States in 1862, and to Wisconsin in 1863. He received a common school education, and afterward was in the boot and shoe business until 1883. He took a colony of bees from a customer in payment of a debt, in the fall of 1882. He read "Quinby's Bee-Keeping" that winter, and the next spring began handling bees. He took a great fancy to bees from the start, and has been a bee-keeper and reader of the bee-papers and books on bees ever since. He now keeps from 75 to 100 colonies.

After starting in the bee-business he began to furnish his customers and other bee-keepers with supplies, and after a few years he was supplying the whole country around him, and was even doing some shipping. He began making comb foundation several years before leaving the shoe-business. In 1895 he started in the manufacture of foundation and supply trade exclusively, the plant then consisting of a building 9x16 feet, with a cellar the same size. In 1896 he built a

2-story house, 18x24, and in 1898 added a two-story upright to this, 22x28, and began buying sections by the car-load.

Up to 1899 Mr. Dittmer's foundation was all made by the old dipping process, but since then he has been developing the process by which all of his foundation is now made. In 1900 he perfected automatic machines, geared to his foundation mills, that will continuously pull foundation from the mills, paper it, print his card on it, cut into proper length, and pile it up, all at one operation, at the rate of from 25 to 75 pounds every hour, one person doing the work.

In 1901 Mr. Dittmer added a shop, 15x24 feet, for a 2½ horse-power gasoline engine and the sheeting machines, and since that time all of the machines are run by power.

This fall the capacity had to be further enlarged by building a warehouse, 24x50 feet, two stories high, and the old building will be used only for manufacturing comb foundation, for storing the same and beeswax, and for a shipping-room and office.

All of the work is done right in Mr. Dittmer's family. Fred works with his father continually, and Clarence and Bessie are always ready to run a machine. In fact, they, with the occasional help of Mrs. Dittmer, run out all of the foundation, making, during the rush, as high as 750 pounds in one day.

Mr. Dittmer has been supervisor on the Eau Claire County Board since 1892, and was chairman of the Board six years out of the past eight. He is a teetotaler, minds his own business, and doesn't loaf around town.

In 1878 Mr. Dittmer was married to Jennie Hatch, and they have four children, as follows: Fred, 23 years of age; Bessie, 21; Clarence, 18; and Margaret, 8.

Mr. Dittmer is the efficient secretary of the Wisconsin State Bee-Keepers' Association. He is also one of the regular, responsible advertisers in the American Bee Journal, and his business is growing just as one would naturally expect in view of the character of the man and the pushing business methods he uses.

## Contributed Articles

### Making Vinegar Out of Honey and Water.

BY C. P. DADANT.

If you simply mix the honey and water so that an egg will fairly float at the top, showing about the size of a dime out of water, it may be sufficient or it may not, according to the amount of ferment contained in the honey, and also according to the temperature after the mixture is made. To make vinegar there must be an alcoholic fermentation previous to the acetic, and the more thorough the first fermentation is, the better the acetic fermentation will be.

In order to hasten the fermentation, it is best to add some fresh fruit-juice to your honey-water. Then, if the liquid is cold, or if the temperature is low, it is best to heat the liquid till it reaches about 90 or 100 degrees. If it is kept warm, the fermentation will soon begin, and if it remains exposed to the air it will be but a short time till the sour taste begins to show.

We never allow any honey to go to waste. The washing of the cappings in a well-regulated apiary will furnish enough vinegar for two or three families, even if only a few hundred pounds of honey have been uncapped. In a large apiary the cappings are first drained through the uncapping-can in a warm room till they seem perfectly dry, and even then several barrels of sweet liquid can be secured from the washing of the cappings of 15 or 20 thousand pounds of honey. We figure that each thousand pounds of honey extracted gives us about 15 pounds of beeswax from the cappings, and, perhaps, five gallons of sweet water fit to make good vinegar. So the apiarist should never render his beeswax till it has been thoroughly washed.

Vinegar that will not sour may lack two or three things, which are all needed. Sufficient warmth, as stated above. If all other requirements are right, it will still be impossible for vinegar to sour if the weather is cold. A good place to keep a gallon of vinegar is right behind the kitchen stove. In a few days a jug full of mild vinegar will become very

sour. Do not cork it tight, but cover the mouth with a cork. A wide-mouth jar covered with a cloth is still better.

Air, that is, oxygen, is needed. The making of vinegar is simply the oxidizing of the sugar contained in the liquid. No change may take place unless air is, or has been, supplied. For that reason the vineyardist keeps his barrels of wine full, and bunged tightly, so that no air may reach the wine. If, perchance, a barrel remains open, he soon has a barrel of vinegar instead of a barrel of wine, and the better the wine has been the better the vinegar will be.

Sufficient sweetness is needed. If the directions I give are followed, a good article of vinegar will be produced. If you want to put the honey by weight, put not less than 2 pounds of honey for each gallon of water. A less quantity may make fair vinegar, but it is much easier to weaken your vinegar if too strong, by the addition of a little water when you wish to use it, than to strengthen it by adding more honey after it is partly made.

A very good inducement for any sweet or alcoholic liquid to turn to vinegar is the addition to the liquid of what is called "vinegar-mother"—the viscous,ropy matter which is usually found in a barrel of good vinegar. This "vinegar-mother" contains the principal ingredients that go to make vinegar, and although it is practically degenerated vinegar, yet it will add strength to the vinegar very promptly.

So, if you happen to have some old vinegar that has been long standing, you can soon strengthen your new vinegar by adding a little of this "mother." Do not listen to those who will say that this is a disgusting looking residue. It looks no worse than an oyster does. Vinegar containing this residue is sure to be pure and wholesome. Vinegar made from chemicals does not contain any mother, neither does it contain any living organism.

The more air the vinegar gets at proper temperatures, the quicker the vinegar is made. Manufacturers of first-class wine-vinegar in Europe often drain their vinegar through a barrel full of shavings slowly, drop by drop, so as to give it a good chance to air. In this way the best vinegar is made.

If you have no fruit-juices to add to your vinegar, a little cider will help to give it a start. Hancock Co., Ill.

## The Use and Abuse of the Honey-Bee.

Read at the Minnesota State Convention in Dec., 1902,

BY FRANK YAHNKE.

THE little busy bee was in the Garden of Eden to fulfill its mission of pollinating the flowers and gathering the honey for the unborn generations. When Adam tilled the soil the honey-bee was with him, and it has been taken wherever civilized man has gone. All the ancient writers mention the honey-bee, and the usefulness of its product. Homer, Herodotus, Aristotle, Varro, Virgil, Pliny, and other ancient sages, composed poems, extolling the activity, skill, and economy of the bee. In the Hebrew language the word *ghoneg* means delight, and where is there in the wide world an article more precious for food or medicine? Ovid, when describing the feast of the gods which required costly aliments and precious wines, says: "The delicious honey-cakes were never wanting."

In the statute books of ancient natives, laws are found for the protection of bees. The thief of a swarm of bees, according to old Saxon laws, was punishable by death. The old Bohemian people believed that it was a sin to kill a bee.

The honey-bee is just as useful now as it was in ancient times. In my younger days I planted, every year, a piece of cucumber for pickling, and was troubled greatly in the blossoms not setting fruit. I then began to keep bees, and that remedied the trouble.

How often our apple crop would be a failure if it were not for the aid of the honey-bee! The product of the bee is as useful as it ever has been.

"Honey is a food in one of its most concentrated forms. It gives warmth to the system, arouses nervous energy, and gives vigor to all the vital functions. To the laborer it gives strength, to the business man mental force. Its effects are not like ordinary stimulants, such as spirits, but it produces a healthy action, the results of which are pleasing and permanent—a sweet disposition and a bright intellect.

"Karl Gatter, a German teacher of the city of Vienna, says: 'In medicine, and especially in the healing of wounds, honey was used as a universal remedy already in early times. It yet constitutes the principal ingredient of several

medical preparations, and is used with the best results in many internal and external diseases. It serves as a means for taking powders, for the preparation of salves, and the sweetening of medicine.'

"Honey is also of great value as a medicine for children, and is readily partaken of by them as a choice, dainty dish. For the removal of worms, honey has often been beneficially used, and it is often used in diseases of the mouth and throat."

Now, I come to the abuse of the honey-bee, which is not as old as its use. The first public abuse the honey-bee received that I know of, was when it was accused of puncturing grapes. Most of you remember how bitterly both sides of the question fought to prove their point. Brother fought against brother, and even went to court about it. To-day it is proved beyond all doubt that the honey-bee does not puncture grapes, or any other fruit. If a man now would claim that honey-bees punctured grapes, he would be looked upon as an ignorant man.

The latest abuse of the honey-bee is the spreading of blight. Let us look at this a little. Professors claim that the bees carry blight in nectar from flower to flower. How this can be I do not know, for bees carry nectar in the honey-sac, and I have never seen this leak yet. If the nature of blight is rightly understood, it will be found that blight does not begin in the flower, but that the dying of the flower is the result of the blight in the wood.

Experience has proved to us that in orchards where bees work extensively on the blossoms, there is the least trouble with blight, and in cases where there were no bees the trees were infested by blossom-blight.

I will not discuss the question longer in this paper, but I think it's very unwise for authorities to publish such theories in magazines (which every one looks upon as good authority), before it is proved beyond reasonable doubt that bees are guilty of carrying blight.

Winona Co., Minn.



## Adulteration of Honey in Minnesota.

Read at the Minnesota State Convention, Dec., 1902,

BY G. L. DINGMAN,

State Dairy and Food Commissioner.

YOUR Secretary wrote me a letter asking what had been done by the State Dairy and Food Department in preventing frauds and adulterations in honey. Briefly, I will try to answer these questions.

During the two years of the incumbency of the present department there have been analyzed in our laboratory 112 samples. These were gathered by our inspectors from all parts of the State in their regular work. The results of these analyses are as follows:

Samples adulterated with cane-sugar.....	8
"      "      "      glucose.....	7
"      "      "      Imitation honey.....	2
Total illegal samples.....	
Pure honey.....	95

This is indeed a good showing, and when the investigation shows that not one of these illegal samples came from any apiary in Minnesota, the result is more than gratifying. The large number of California, or so-called California, honeys, that have been sold by the trade of the State, has been nearly driven out of the market by the superior product of the Northwest. The coarse, rank taste of these grades of honeys has never been pleasing to the palate of the consumer, and when a sufficient supply of such honey as the flowers of our own State yield to the little toilers, which store it up for our delicacy, can be produced to meet the supply of demand, these coarser products must find a less-favored market to meet with any sale.

A very large percent of strained honey has been sent to the commission dealers of the Twin Cities, especially during the past winter, and they, fearing from the extremely large amount that the product might not be pure, have submitted many samples to our chemists for analyses with the invariable record of the legality of the article. Several samples have, however, come to us from Wisconsin that have been found to contain sucrose. The producer, however, has claimed that we were in error, but when the matter was closely investigated it was found, as he claimed, the bees had been fed largely on cane-sugar, and this proved our

chemist's contention that it was illegal. The reliability of his statement I leave to you, gentlemen, who are posted in such matters; we can only say our test proved the presence of quite a percent of cane-sugar, hence we could only pronounce the honey illegal.

We have prosecuted those cases, where intended violation was apparent, and we trust these examples may be prolific of good.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I must again congratulate the apiarists of the State on the fine quality produced, and also say that the Dairy and Food Department wish in every way to co-operate with you in advancing the interests of the honey-producers, as we believe we have a State of unsurpassed capability, and it only needs the energy and increased capacity of our apiarists to place Minnesota in the foremost rank in this another of her naturally favored industries.

## Our Bee-Keeping Sisters

Conducted by EMMA M. WILSON, Marengo, Ill.

### ...A Holiday Greeting...

Marengo, Ill., Dec. 21, 1903.

DEAR SISTER BEE-KEEPERS:—

I congratulate you on the success of your department. It has been a success because so many of YOU have helped to make it so. Your hearty co-operation has been beyond my expectation. With heartfelt thanks for your contributions in the past, I bespeak a continuance of your favor in the future. I trust that we may hear from a still greater number in the coming year. Your letters are always eagerly welcomed, whether they record your successes or failures, or merely contain questions about our beloved pursuit.

To each one of you I wish

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS" and  
"A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Yours sincerely, EMMA M. WILSON.

### Gifts and Novelties Made of Beeswax.

"Even the bits of beeswax intended for use in the sewing basket to wax threads with, are now made attractive by being molded in the shape of fruit, strawberries, cherries, blackberries and plums, all being seen. On the top of each one is a small silver leaf from which comes a bit of silk cord."

So says the "Department for Women" in the Chicago Daily News. We may not all be able to make easily the articles here mentioned, but we can make very pretty and serviceable gifts for our friends' work-baskets with what conveniences we have at hand. An egg-shell, or a thimble, makes a very good mold in which to run your hot beeswax. While the wax is still hot enough to be liquid, take two pieces of pretty colored ribbon, dip one end of each in the melted wax, and let it remain there till cold; then remove from the mold and fashion your ribbon into a dainty bow, and you have a very pretty gift, which will be much appreciated by many of your friends on account of the good service it will do.

### Our Sisters Across the Sea.

R. Goldi is quoted as saying, in a Swiss bee-journal, some encouraging things for the sisters, which will bear repetition here without the use of quotation marks.

The bee-keeper who not only interests his sons in bee-keeping, but is able to inspire in his daughters a taste for it, so that in turn they may learn to uncaps sealed combs, to

extract honey, to place the combs in the hive, to remove or to introduce a queen, etc., gives them a lesson for the life which will certainly be more useful than if they should spend their time crocheting or embroidering in the heavy atmosphere of a stuffy parlor.

Madame Spencer, of St. Ives, takes care of her colonies absolutely alone, and she declares that, aside from the good health gained by exercise in the open air, she is indebted to her pets for quite a pretty income. It is true that she possesses a remarkable recipe, whose efficacy she has proven over and over again in the care of her bees: "Take," says she, "4 parts of enthusiasm, 1 part of sound common-sense, 1 part of perseverance, 1 part of courage, mix the whole and preserve in a bottle, and take as needed with a pinch of patience." Many lady bee-keepers in our land have followed this recipe, and have been present and taken part in our annual conventions.

Bee-keeping is, and will always remain, the poetry of agriculture, with which not only every man, but every woman, in city or country, should to some extent become acquainted.

### Mother and Young Son Do the Bee-Work.

I can not keep bees and do without the American Bee Journal. I get so much information out of it. I had some bees for five years, and then I lost all I had—4 colonies. Then I bought one colony, paying \$10 for it; that was three years ago, and I now have 26 colonies, also 4 on shares, making 30 in all. We have something over 2000 pounds of honey, besides all a family of six children can eat. One son (13 years old) and myself have done the work.

I have tried to get subscribers for the valuable American Bee Journal, but those "old buckwheats" will not listen; they know it all.

Long live "Our Bee-Keeping Sisters" department!  
Union Co., Iowa, Nov. 23. BELLE MUTSCHLER.

## Hasty's Afterthoughts

The "Old Reliable" seen through New and Unreliable Glasses.  
By E. E. HASTY, Sta. B Rural, Toledo, Ohio.

### CATNIP NEEDS EXTRA-RICH LAND.

So in medium and medium-to-poor soils catnip in field-culture doesn't grow worth a cent. Come to think of it, that agrees well with my observation, and I guess it's so. A plant for extra-rich land and half-manure fence-corners where it is too rich for grass and the generality of weeds. Page 716.

### A FINE CALIFORNIA PICTURE.

We have had many fine pictures of apiaries of late, but W. J. McCarroll's, on page 726, seems specially noteworthy. We can see why black sage is called black—and the intensity of the California sun.

### MANIPULATION TO LESSEN SWARMING.

Yes, Mr. Getaz, when only 10 percent actually contemplate the wickedness of swarming, and we manipulate 100 percent to head it off, there's a provoking amount of lost labor that comes in. That's where the languid, and the lazy, and the played-outs get a chance to crow feebly over the smart folks. I had several years with scarcely more swarms than I wanted. Thought, be-sure, I'd have another such last season. Gee! Page 727.

### A POUND OF HONEY FOR A STING.

If we could all get a pound of honey as a consolation for each sting, *à la* page 728, it would total quite an income for some of us—providing our Lady Bountiful didn't go bankrupt.

### 10-FRAME VS. SMALLER HIVES.

Sister Wilson, of course you are right as to your own thoughts, but you leave out the biggest and loudest of the claims the 10-frame folks make. They claim larger swarms and larger colonies, decidedly larger colonies, pretty much all the time. They think that that means more surplus, even after the chamber below has done its worst in absor-

ing it. I tell 'em that with my 7-frame arrangement I get some honey where they wouldn't get any. They have the cheek to deny this. Page 728.

#### SOIL BACTERIA FOR PLANT GROWTH.

In an editorial comment, page 739, bacteria are spoken of as if they were needed on the roots of asters and golden-rod. That is not the case, I believe. Most plants do not try to capture atmospheric nitrogen for nourishment, but rely wholly on the nitrogen contained in the soil. Only the clovers, and perhaps some other plants of the same natural order, have gotten onto the wonderful "scheme" of using atmospheric nitrogen captured for them by minute growths which they can harbor. The grape has nodules on its roots, but the inhabitants of the nodules are not supposed to furnish the vine with nitrogen. With a little lively imagination we could say that we must love the clovers because the clovers are bee-keepers. The root nodules are little hives, the inhabitants are little bees, and the nitrogen laid in is the honey—honey both for the use of the bee and the bee-keeper—alike same as we uns. And when both bee and keeper are dead, the fertility of the soil is found to have got ahead. All soils would be fertile if all plants worked this scheme—that is, so far as nitrogen could make them fertile they would be.

#### SMOKE AND NO SMOKE WITH BEES.

"We're all poor critters." If we take a notion—take a notion that it's thing to be proud of to do without smoke—we can do much in that line, and make ourselves see it as the best way—especially when we are arguing with somebody out of reach of live bees. But contrariwise if we got in the habit of using smoke a little to excess, and somebody, unfortunately, pitched into us about it—and kept pitching in until we used twice as much as before, we can manage to see it best to use considerable smoke. An idle angel with mischief in his mind, could set the same man either way. As for me, I do not think ordinary smoke applied with a cold smoker harms bees to an extent worth mentioning. Thinking thus, naturally I think it foolish tactics to wait for signs of attack. Give them several puffs at the entrance the very first thing. Why not? Or are we in the bee-business for the simple purpose of showing off? Send in a few more puffs at the top immediately on opening. As for that several spells of puffing, and several waits of actual time by the watch, that's not for the bee-veteran but for the beginner. It's a very good plan for the beginner, indeed. Page 740.

## Dr. Miller's Answers

Send Questions either to the office of the American Bee Journal, or to Dr. C. C. Miller, Marengo, Ill.

#### Feeding Comb Honey vs. Candy in Winter.

I notice that you are being asked quite frequently lately to tell how to feed light colonies in cold weather. I also notice you recommend candy made of sugar and water. I wish to ask if you ever tried such candy yourself. And, also, if you ever tried comb honey in place of the candy? I tried candy on 5 or 6 colonies a couple of years ago, and every colony so fed starved to death, while a couple of colonies that were given some comb honey in sections lived through all right.

Since then I have carried over a good many light colonies by feeding comb honey, and believe that, counting the extra risk and work of making the candy, honey is the cheaper of the two. Of course, the cheapest grade of honey will do, just so it is sound, ripe honey; or cull sections will do. For cellar feeding of box-hive colonies, turn hive bottom up, and lay on enough sections to make sure of plenty, and cover with a piece of carpet or quilt, or anything to hold the heat of the bees without being tight enough to smother them. For hives with frames, remove the cover and lay the honey on the frames, directly over the cluster, and cover the same way. Colonies in hives with frames may be fed the same way out-of-doors, excepting more covering is necessary over the honey. In either case the honey is laid down flat on the frames or combs, and, if it is

thought one layer of sections of honey is not enough, or it is desired to add more afterwards, the latter can be laid right on top of the first. The colonies so fed, with me, have all wintered perfectly, seemingly better than a great many colonies that had plenty of stores in their own combs, and wintered in the same cellar. The candy I fed was not burned, and was apparently just as it should be, according to the books, but the bees gnawed it up, and it dropped to the bottom-board about like hard candied honey would, and they died leaving part of the cake of candy on the frames.

Now, I am aware that "one swallow does not make a summer," but I am sure I always think of those 5 or 6 colonies I might have saved when I see some one advised to feed hard candy.

Let us know whether you know from personal experience that such candy can be made to do as some say it will. IOWA.

ANSWER.—No, I never fed in winter, so there never was any need of my using candy. But others have used it, and I do not remember that any one has heretofore reported failure with it. Indeed, I think some say that they prefer it, although it is generally recommended for feeding in winter, because at that time it is not safe to feed syrup, and those who have to feed in winter are not likely to have sealed combs on hand. With your experience you are wise to prefer sections. I am wondering whether it may not be that some others have had a like experience without being so frank about telling of it as you are. It might be a profitable thing if those who have used candy would tell us of their success—or of their failure.

#### Wants to Increase an Apairy.

I lost all of my bees in the winter of 1902-03. I have 8 more colonies of bees, and \$50 to begin with again, and wish to increase my apairy. Which is the more profitable, to buy bees in box-hives at \$3 a colony, transfer and divide, rearing the queens myself, or buy queens and increase from the 8 colonies I have? I reared my own queens the last two years.

Our main honey-flow is from alfalfa and sweet clover; we have a continuous flow from the last of June until the first of September.

UTAH.

ANSWER.—You say, "I have reared my own queens the last two years." That makes me think you have had considerable experience, and with a continuous flow for two months or more from alfalfa and sweet clover, you ought to get a nice return from your bees, so that it would be better to invest in the box-hive colonies and run the 8 colonies at least partly for honey. In any case, by buying you could have more colonies for next year, and so the sooner have the increased profit from a larger number. If, however, there is considerable danger that you may repeat last winter's experience in wintering, then you might better limit yourself to the 8, increasing from them so carefully that all would be strong for wintering.

#### Width of Top-Bars.

An editorial in a recent bee-paper recommended top-bars of common hanging frames only  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch wide. Is that good advice?

WISCONSIN.

ANSWER.—Paraphrasing the words of Lincoln, for those who need that sort of advice that is the very sort of advice who need it. If you want me to answer the question with a curt yes or no, I must say I don't know. There might be more than one understanding of the question. It might be construed, "When common hanging frames are used, is it good advice to advise that they shall be only  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch wide?"

I rather incline to answer yes to that question. The one special advantage of loose-hanging frames is that there is no need of any dummy to get out the frames, but that by shoving the frames to one side you may lift out any one frame without lifting any other. To be sure, you may with fixed-distance frames lift out any one frame without lifting any other, but you must first lift out the dummy. If top-bars be  $\frac{1}{8}$  wide, leaving only  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch between them, a larger number of frames must be moved to get one out than with  $\frac{1}{8}$  frames that make the space twice as large.

That, however, is a rather forced construction of the question, and we may broaden it by asking whether it is advisable to change from fixed-distance frames to the loose-

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hanging frames mentioned. This advice has lately been given by at least two prominent foul-brood inspectors, the advice being given with emphasis. I believe the advice is good—at least to the extent that such a change would be a real improvement in some of the cases we have met. Fixed-distance frames, so thoroughly glued together that it is five times as hard to get out the first frame as it is with loose-hanging frames—when a foul-brood inspector meets such a case I don't blame him for saying emphatically that loose-hanging frames are better, and the narrower the top-bars the easier to get out the frames.

Suppose we put the question in its broadest sense, which, very likely, is the sense intended, and ask whether it is good advice to recommend loose-hanging frames with narrow top-bars. If you allow me to answer it for myself, under my conditions, I must give a very emphatic no. I have used loose-hanging frames with 1-inch top-bars—used them by the thousand for years—and for some years have

used fixed-distance frames, and it would take quite a little money to hire me to go back to loose-hanging frames. If the top-bars had been only  $\frac{1}{4}$ , it would have been easier to get out the frames; but if it were made so easy that any one frame could be taken out without moving any other frame, I still would not be willing to give up the advantages of the fixed distance. But I want so few and so small points of contact between the frames that it will always be a light thing to separate them.

Californians who work for extracted honey say fixed-distance frames are barred, because the spacers interfere with the knife when uncapping. If I were working for extracted instead of comb honey, I might agree with them. I have, however, a lingering notion that if some of them should work for a while with such frames as I use, they might endure the inconvenience of the spacers when uncapping, rather than to forego the advantages that I believe they would discover.

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## FROM MANY FIELDS

### Managing an Out-Apiary.

I will try to tell how I work my out-apriary. The greatest help I have is the drone-guard, made with cone-escape, with a tin slide, so I can close or open the escape. After the hives are leveled up I put a drone-guard on every colony but one; this is an extra-good colony that I keep for drones, and manage it so as not to have them swarm. I leave them for 8 or 10 days with no one to look after them.

When I go to the apiary I examine each colony carefully by removing the drone-guards to see if there are any dead queens. If I find any of these I give that colony a comb with eggs in it. I leave the guards off in the forenoon for the bees to get their hives well cleaned out; in the afternoon I put the guards on with the escape open. Until about 4 o'clock I look every little while for queens that may have come out to be fertilized. If I find one I let her in the hive and dispatch the drone.

I spend my time in doing anything that may need doing, and making sure that they have plenty of room at all times for both brood and honey. If there are any bees that seem to be loafing or lying out, I leave the queen below and place the brood in the upper story with a queen-excluding honey-board under it. About 4 o'clock I dispatch what drones are out, and close the escape, and leave them for another 10 days. This keeps my colonies strong, and I get more honey than my neighbors, and with no expense for labor. I have worked the out-apriary three years this way, but have made a success in getting honey, and without the expense of paying a man to watch the bees.

C. J. BARBER.  
Monona Co., Iowa, Dec. 12.

### Poor Honey-Years in Succession.

The honey crop was very poor here the past season, which makes five poor honey-years in succession, and each one of the five was poorer than the one before. A. W. SMITH.  
Sullivan Co., N. Y., Dec. 1.

### Some Experience With Bees.

My experience with bees in the past, and outlook for the future, I would compare to the unregenerate son of Adam, and his condition after being converted to the Gospel of Christ. I feel, concerning apiculture, as if I had been "born again," and, "as new born babe," desire "the sincere milk of the word" (American Bee Journal) "that I may grow thereby;" and yet, in this case, I don't know that I shall believe all things I read.

I am now 32 years of age, and my experience with bees has been as follows: About 17 years ago a swarm came to my father's home and settled on a cedar limb about 15 feet from the ground. My father rushed around and fixed up an old upright hive that he had pur-



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Please mention Bee Journal when writing.

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## "Buckwheat Cakes and Honey"

Words by EUGENE SECOR.

Music by GEORGE W. YORK.

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EUGENE SECOR and DR. C. C. MILLER.

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chased bees in a number of years before (and lost them the same winter), and then rang the bell frantically for me, I being about a half mile away working in the onion-field, barefooted, and in my shirt sleeves. Supposing the house was on fire, or somebody hurt, I ran the distance, and was told, "There is a swarm of bees in the cedar-tree, and I have everything ready, and am sweaty, and it won't do for me to get stung; you will have to hive them." So I climbed the ladder, pocket-knife in hand, clothed as I came from the field (it was a fine cluster, and would probably have filled a peck measure), and proceeded cutting off the limb, and, then, putting the blade of the knife between my teeth, started down. Presently I struck another limb, knocking off part of the bees, and a large number of them darted for my face and neck and stung me (I used to estimate it at 20 times). My appearance afterwards was that of one having a severe case of mumps.

Well, I deposited the swarm in front of the hive as quickly as possible, and then excused myself for the time being. Father, at this juncture, took a position at the rear of the hive, and with a long stick drummed them in.

The bees I have now are descendants from that colony, excepting from such as I sold up to the present time. Eleven years ago they had increased to 4 colonies, which I purchased from father, working the month of July for them. Three of them were in Langstroth hives, and one in a box. I have always wintered my bees outside, formerly putting them on the south side of a building, with no other protection than perhaps a few boards thrown on top of the covers. In more recent years I have packed them in straw, protecting all but the front of the hives.

This winter I have put on mouse-protectors, made by cutting a lath long enough to reach across the entrance of the hive, and nailing on it a strip of tin one inch wide, and pressing the same down at the entrance of the hive, leaving a bee-space beneath it. I kept the bees, purchased eleven years ago, until 1897, when I had 6 colonies that I sold, 5 to a neighbor, and one back to father. In 1899 I purchased 3 colonies from father (the increase from this one) by painting a 30x40 foot barn with two coats of white lead, furnishing the same.

In 1900 I tried doubling my number by dividing the colonies, but the next spring about the same number showed up living. In the spring of 1903 I started with 4 colonies, which have increased, by swarming, to 8, and

## The Emerson Binder



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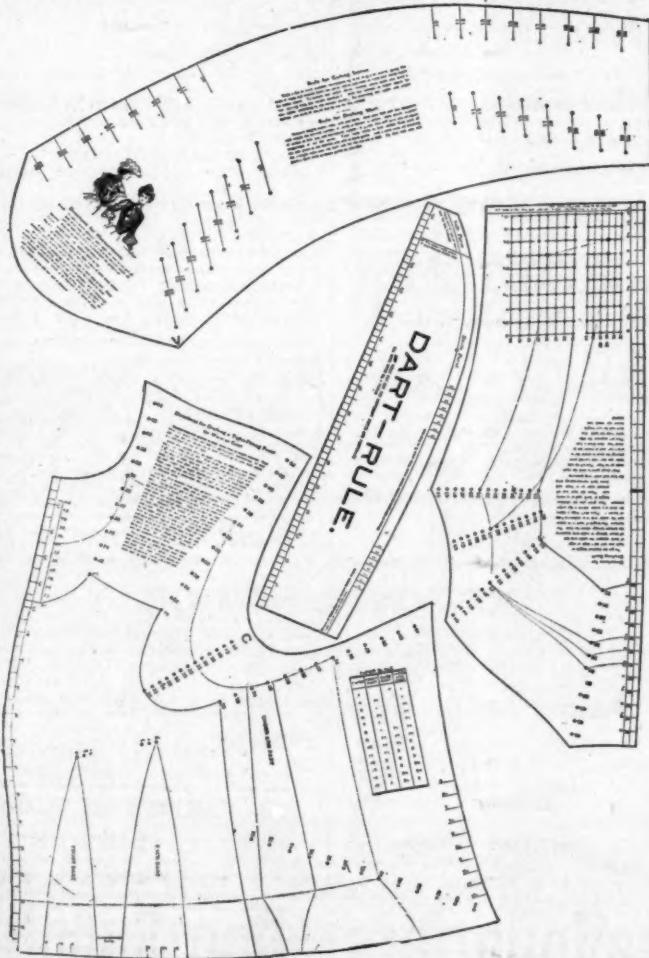
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42A11t

## Something FOR OUR Bee-Keeping Sisters in the Winter Time.

We think all ladies will agree with us in saying that every man should at least understand some business, with which, in case of necessity, he could support himself and family. The wealthiest people frequently come to want, and wretched, indeed, is the man who cannot earn a living after his wealth is gone. He sometimes fills the grave of a suicide. And why, in this enlightened age of progression, should not woman, as well as man, be able to depend on her own resources? In case her husband fails to provide and grossly mistreats the woman he has sworn to cherish, must she humbly submit? **A THOUSAND TIMES, NO!** Let every woman, rich or poor, should make her daughters, in a certain degree, independent, by giving them some kind of a trade, and teaching them to be self-reliant. Mothers should have their daughters learn to sew, and not neglect this important part of their domestic education. The



daughter so taught will not only make a better wife and mother, but will also be more likely to secure a better husband, and will always command his respect. He will not look upon her as a helpless "know-nothing," but will know that if he fails in his duties, she can live without him, and this can only strengthen the bond between them. A thorough knowledge of dress-making can always be turned into gold, and become the means of support for the mother and her little ones. She may never have to use this knowledge in this way, but she has a trade and can use it if necessary.

The outline cut shown herewith is a condensed copy of **THE NEW LONDON LADIES' TAILOR SYSTEM** for drafting and cutting ladies' and children's garments. For simplicity and accuracy it has no superior among the more expensive systems. Thousands of girls have learned more about drafting and cutting with this system than they knew about it after serving their apprenticeship in some of the dressmaking shops of the United States and Canada. Thousands of the best garment cutters have laid their complicated and expensive system aside, and are now using **THE NEW LONDON TAILOR SYSTEM**. Thousands have been sold at \$5.00 each, but we mail it **Free** to a paid-in-advance subscriber to the American Bee Journal for sending us **two new** subscribers at \$1.00 each; or we will send it to any one with a year's subscription to the American Bee Journal, both for \$1.75; or, we will mail the Tailor System alone for \$1.00. Address all orders to

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I have again bought the increase from father's old colony, and have gone into winter quarters with 10 colonies, and the nucleus still remains.

It would make a small book if I were to go into the details of my experience with the honey part of this subject, so I will cut it off here.

I have been assisting a Mr. Myers in putting his bees into the cellar to-day. We weighed a great many hives (10-frame Langstroth, single-walled hives, without the top), and they ranged from 48 pounds to 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Of 61 which we put in to-day, the larger portion of them ranged from 55 to 75 pounds each.

CHARLES F. CLEMONS.

Scott Co., Iowa, Dec. 1.

### Bees Wintering Well.

Bees are wintering finely, and are well supplied in stores, with the exception of late swarms. Since the first of July the bees never did better or obtained more honey.

Cass Co., Nebr., Dec. 4. J. M. YOUNG.

### Best Crop in 15 Years.

We have had a better honey crop this season than for 15 years, and the most of the honey was gathered from white clover. I sold nearly all of my extracted honey for \$1.50 per gallon.

CHARLES DUCLOS.

Saginaw Co., Mich., Dec. 4.

### Clipping and Introducing Queens—Other Kinks.

Our Editor York has called for an examination, and it is likely he will not rest easy until he has had us all "upon the carpet."

I have no college qualifications to parade before the eyes of the readers, but I have found a few gaps in bee-keeping which may be of interest to the beginners. I will not tell how many colonies of bees I have, or how much honey I got the past season, for the reason that it would not throw any light on the question asked; but I will say that our bees beat a 160-acre farm, and it will not take all the surplus to feed them while they are producing another crop, either.

First, I will tell which is the most suitable time for me to clip queens. Formerly I did this job in early spring, but the past season stores were low, nothing coming in, and as soon as a hive was opened the robbers started; a tent was a botheration, the wind would blow it over, and the limbs of trees in the grove aided in the trouble, and I abandoned clipping, thinking I must try one season without it; but the tall trees were an eye-sore to me, and just before swarming-time I determined to clip the queens, and be boss of the yard. The hives were heavy in bees, but honey was coming in, and I could, by opening the hives early in the morning, as soon as I could see to tell a queen, find and clip from 8 to 12 while the "old lady" was getting breakfast. It took but a very little smoke, and often none at all. In the middle of the day I had lots more hunting to do to find them; the smoke would scare them off the combs, so I abandoned it and waited for early mornings. By so doing I did the clipping the easiest and most agreeable way I have ever done it since I have been in the business.

The increase was managed in a different way from what I formerly used, and I like it. When a swarm came off, heretofore, I had increased one, but this season I divided the old colony's combs and made two 4-frame nuclei, and gained an additional one over the old method. I wanted to increase to 30, so the first 15 swarms gave the desired increase, and what swarmed after that was returned to the old hive, by removing the queen when they issued. The hives of these 4-frame ones I filled with drawn combs. I made sure to take an outside frame for each nucleus, as the outside frames usually carry more honey than brood. Took care that each hive had a queen-cell; if it was on the bottom of comb I cut it out and placed it, as the Bee Journal told us, in the center, and close to the top-bar, that it might not chill. I got fooled with one where I had placed division-boards instead of frames, and before I learned it they had



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started to build combs on the bottom of the hive-cover, just as the Bee Journal said it would. If we would always pay attention to instructions we could find the gaps, and often avoid difficulty. The 4-frame nuclei gave a super of honey each, and those that were returned to the old hives were in fine shape for business, and attended to it, too.

When Dr. Miller told us about drowning of queens to insure safe introduction, I tried it in less than an hour's time after reading it, and found it practical in each trial except one, and that one was a virgin queen, and she "came up missing." This is the way I did the thing:

Each was a laying queen, and was placed in a spiral cage and closed in, then the cage was placed in a vessel of water, deep enough to cover the cage. A comb with bees was out and ready for her. After a minute or so I released her among the bees, and sometimes, if not stupefied, she would start off on a trot with the bees after her; then she was given another immersion, and when released she would stagger and cling to the combs with all the "go" washed out of her, and would stand still and let the bees lick her off. The frames were then placed in the hive, and the next day she would be found busy laying. We had a lot of queenless colonies on which we tried the hurry-up plan, but had, instead, hurried it down, where I had run hatching queens in I would find them removing queen-cells. I wanted to save time, and used these queens to do so, but over 50 percent of these "run ins" "came up missing." This has bothered me for several years, and each time I laid it to the kingbirds taking the queen when on her



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wedding-flight, whereas she had never been allowed to live to take the flight, as the bees had killed her. Hereafter, if I can I prefer letting the queen hatch in the hive she is to occupy, and what cells hatch in my hands when removing them will never be used, unless it is an emergency; and before doing so she will get the water-cure. The kingbirds and I have buried the hatchet, and will be friends. I will kill no more of them. The queens will get the water-cure when clipping hereafter, as I usually have some balled from the scare she gets, which starts her running when released. The older bee-keepers may hoot at the idea, but I believe the attack originates mostly from fear on the part of the queen. If it comes from the scent of being handled, the water will remove it. Try it, boys, as I did, and see what is in it.

Mr. Davenport, our neighbor on the North, was complaining about too much pollen being deposited in the brood-nest. Same thing here. The plague is a serious affair with me, as the combs often become so filled with it that there is but little room for brood. I can help it by breaking in the caps on honey, and have it carried up-stairs, which will enlarge the brood-space. My bees will not carry honey up-stairs from the brood-nest unless the caps are broken. I have read that the bees would clean the combs of pollen, but I waited a long time for them to do it, and waited in vain until I hit upon that plan:

I had a lot of combs which were a mass of pollen; these I was melting into wax; they had been in empty hives where the bees had carried all the honey that was in them, and had become dry. I found that by giving 4 of these with 4 of foundation to a new swarm they would clean them out as free from pollen as could be. I, too, tried soaking them, but it was "no go"—the pollen appeared to swell tight, and stayed there; but if they had no honey in them they appeared to dry out, and bees did the rest, but with honey in them the pollen staid in the frames. I wonder what is

Mr. Hasty's opinion about it. All that I can see for us in this pollen district to do, is to remove the frames that are pollen-bound, and place them where the bees can clean out the honey, but not to allow robbing to originate from it, then leave the combs in the empty hive to dry, and not give over 3 or 4 at once. I would like a more simple remedy, but must use the above until some one tells me of a better plan.

I will say to You Yonson, that Tom Carter says we will try his method of catching fish next summer, when the haycocks bloom. He is all right, and can come again.

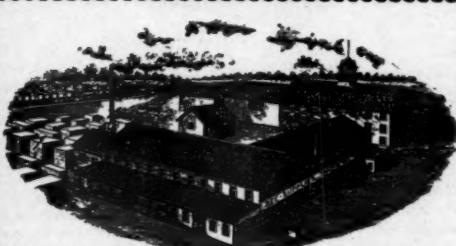
I wonder if there is any danger of the bee-keeping sisters going off and starting a bee-paper of their own. Hope they will not, until we get some of those bachelors married off. Say, ladies, those fellows have no pluck, or they would have had a lady cook long ago.

A. F. Foote, of Mitchell Co., Iowa, appears to be worried over the problem of keeping down increase. Some people like trouble well enough to take a spade and dig for it. If Mr. Foote will clip his queens' wings, and remove the queen when the swarm issues, the bees will return to the old hive, and he has then a double-header for business.

Mr. Patton, of Alabama, tries a dig at Mr. Davenport, of Minnesota, about his black bees. Say, Mr. Patton, come up here with some of your Italian bees and see if our dark bees don't "put it all over" your yellow

  
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ones. They are nice to look at, but honey is what we are after, and our blacks get it.

A bulletin board is a nice thing in the yard. The "wants" can be placed where they are before our eyes in plain view. Often the wants are overlooked when placed in a notebook. Things needed to be done in a few days are sometimes forgotten, while a note of it on the blackboard tells you what is wanted. For instance, on examining a hive to remove the queen-cells, it is found to be pollen-bound. You probably have other urgent business and have no time then, and, if you do, it is hardly the right time to open the combs by cracking the caps, for there is no queen to occupy them, and the honey is not removed up-stairs until the room is needed. You make a note on the blackboard like this: "Open combs in 196," and date the note; you can't forget to do this, as it is there in plain view daily. When you have finished the job erase the note. We often run on "needs," but cannot apply the remedy, so the blackboard will finish up the odds and ends. J. P. BLUNK.

Webster Co., Iowa, Dec. 2.

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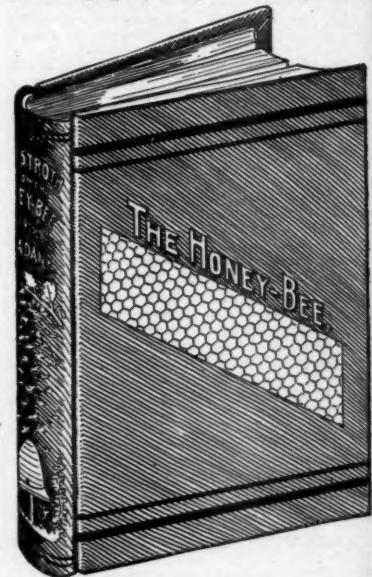
### Introducing Queens.

I had some experience last spring in the introduction of queens, which differed very materially from any I ever had before. One colony out of 16 swarmed early, when there seemed but little for the bees to get, the swarms having to be fed, but later on they got to be prosperous. I caught the queen in the parent colony four weeks after casting the swarm, and killed her, introducing an Italian queen caged in her stead. The bees, in 50 hours, had released the Italian queen and received her apparently in good condition. Six days later, upon examination, the bees had killed the Italian queen and started new cells; these I cut out, and, on examination three weeks later, I found them hopelessly queenless, whereupon I grafted into the combs two nice Italian queen-cells, which they accepted and reared a nice queen. I then went to the prime swarm and introduced a queen which the bees killed in the cage before releasing her. I grafted cells into their combs, which they destroyed. I then left them alone two

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**Forty Years Among the Bees**, by Dr. C. C. Miller.—This book contains 328 pages, is bound in handsome cloth, with gold letters and design; it is printed on best book-paper, and illustrated with 112 beautiful original half-tone pictures, taken by Dr. Miller himself. It is unique in this regard. The first few pages are devoted to an interesting biographical sketch of Dr. Miller, telling how he happened to get into bee-keeping. Seventeen years ago he wrote a small book, called "A Year Among the Bees," but that little work has been out of print for a number of years. While some of the matter used in the former book is found in the new one, it all reads like a good new story of successful bee-keeping by one of the masters, and shows in minutest detail just how Dr. Miller does things with bees. Price, \$1.00.

**Bee-Keeper's Guide, or Manual of the Apiary**, by Prof. A. J. Cook, of Pomona College, California. This book is not only instructive and helpful as a guide in bee-keeping, but is interesting and thoroughly practical and scientific. It contains a full delineation of the anatomy and physiology of bees. 544 pages. 295 illustrations. Bound in cloth. 10th thousand. Price, \$1.20.

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**A B C of Bee-Culture**, by A. I. & E. R. Root.—A cyclopedia of over 500 pages, describing everything pertaining to the care of the honey-bees. Contains about 400 engravings. It was written especially for beginners. Bound in cloth. Price, \$1.20.

**Scientific Queen-Rearing**, as Practically Applied, by G. M. Doolittle.—A method by which the very best of queen-bees are reared in perfect accord with Nature's way. Bound in cloth and illustrated. Price, \$1.00; in leatherette binding, 60 cents.

**Bees and Honey**, or Management of an Apiary for Pleasure and Profit, by Thomas G. Newman.—It is nicely illustrated, contains 160 pages. Price, in cloth, 75 cents; in paper, 50 cents.

**Advanced Bee-Culture, Its Methods and Management**, by W. Z. Hutchinson.—The author of this work is a practical and entertaining writer. You should read his book; 90 pages; bound in paper, and illustrated. Price, 50 cents.

**Bienen-Kultur**, by Thomas G. Newman.—This is a German translation of the principal portion of the book called "Bees and Honey," 100-page pamphlet. Price, 25 cents.

**Apinary Register**, by Thomas G. Newman.—Devotes two pages to a colony. Leather binding. Price, for 50 colonies, \$1.00.

**Dr. Howard's Book on Foul Brood**.—Gives the McEvoy Treatment and reviews the experiments of others. Price, 25 cents.

**Winter Problem in Bee-Keeping**, by G. E. Pierce.—Result of 25 years' experience. Price, 30 cents.

**Foul Brood Treatment**, by Prof. F. R. Cheshire.—Its Cause and Prevention. 10 cts.

**Foul Brood**, by A. R. Kohnke.—Origin, Development and Cure. Price, 10 cents.

weeks and grafted in more queen-cells, which they treated as the first ones. I knew they had no queen, as I had caught and killed her before introducing the queen, which they killed in the cage. This colony never would receive any aid, and continued in this hopeless condition until death resulted. Why were they so contrary?

J. B. AUSMUS.  
Benton Co., Ark., Dec. 7.

## Moving Bees—Season's Report.

On March 7, 1903, I reached this place with 30 colonies of bees. I had to feed some before fruit-bloom, but we are located in the midst of 4000 bearing apple-trees, and a large area well set with white clover, catnip, smartweed and dandelion.

I have increased to 45 colonies, and sold \$150 worth of honey, the most of it comb honey. Our bees worked a good deal on red clover.

On moving on the railroad we saved the work of sawing our hives full of air-holes to ventilate the bees, by simply tacking wire-cloth over the hive-entrances, and then placing each hive facing out from the center of a stock-car, and the motion of the train did the rest. When we reached St. Louis the switchmen never failed to see the few bees that had escaped from the hives, so they bumped us very easy.

GEO. R. KELLY.  
Cooper Co., Mo., Dec. 8.

## CONVENTION NOTICES.

**Kansas**.—The first regular meeting of the Kansas State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at Topeka, Dec. 30. All persons interested in bees, whether members or not, are urged to be present.

O. A. KRENE, Sec.

Topeka, Kan.

**New York**.—The annual meeting of the Oswego County Bee-Keepers' Association, will be held at Oswego, N. Y., Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1904. N. E. France, General Manager of the National Bee-Keepers' Association, will be present and address the meeting. All persons interested in bee-are cordially invited to be present.

CHAS. B. ALLEN, Sec.

Central Square, N. Y.

**Minnesota**.—The annual meeting of the South-eastern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin Bee-Keepers' Association will meet at Winona, Minn., at the Court House, in the County Commissioners' rooms, on Tuesday, Jan. 19 (and 20), 1904. A full attendance of the members, their wives and friends, is invited to this, our annual meet. All bee-keepers everywhere are cordially invited to attend.

W. K. BATES, Pres.  
Stockton, Minn.

**New York**.—Mr. N. E. France, of Platteville, Wis., General Manager of the National Bee-Keepers' Association, has been secured by the Bureau of Farmers' Institutes to speak at a series of Bee-Keepers' Institutes in connection with the local bee-keepers' societies as follows: Canandaigua, Jan. 6 and 7; Romulus, Jan. 8; Cortland, Jan. 9; Auburn, Jan. 11; Oswego, Jan. 12; Amsterdam, Jan. 13; Syracuse, Jan. 14 and 15. The meeting on the 15th will be that of the New York State Association of Bee-Keepers' Societies.

C. B. HOWARD, Sec.  
Romulus, N. Y.

## HONEY AND BEESWAX

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## WANTED! FANCY COMB HONEY

In no-drip shipping-cases. Also Amber Extracted in barrels or cans. Quote your best price delivered Cincinnati. The Fred W. Muth Co., 32Atf Front and Walnut, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

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and you may have part of it if you work for us. Uncle Sam's poultry product pays that sum. Send me for samples and particulars. We furnish capital to start you in business. Baugh Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill.



## HONEY AND BEESWAX

### MARKET QUOTATIONS

**CHICAGO**, Dec. 7.—At this season of the year there is not much trade in honey, retailers having laid in their stock for the holidays. Fancy comb honey for the Christmas trade has brought 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; No. 1 grades, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ @13c; amber, 9@10c. Extracted white, brings 6@7c; amber, 5@6c. All extracted honey is sold on its flavor, quality, kind and style of package. Beeswax, 28@30c.

R. A. BURNETT &amp; CO.

**PHILADELPHIA**, Dec. 10.—Large lots of comb honey being offered from States that were not supposed to have much stock. Bee-men, as usual, wake up now to the fact that they want to sell their comb honey and push it on the market, thus breaking the price. If they would only offer their honey in September, they would get more for it and it would be better for the producer and dealer. We quote fancy white, 14@16c; No. 1, 12@14c; buckwheat, 12c. Fancy extracted, 8c; amber, 6@7c. We are producers of honey, and do not handle on commission.

WM. A. SELSER.

**ALBANY, N. Y.**, Dec. 15.—Market very dull, and lower since the cold weather. Quotations have to be shaded, and concessions made to effect any quantity sales.

H. R. WRIGHT.

**CINCINNATI**, Nov. 21.—The demand for comb honey is slower now than it was six weeks ago, owing to the enormous quantities offered on all sides. Fancy comb is sold in single case lots at 14c. The supply of extracted honey is big, although the demand is good. We are selling amber extracted in barrels at 5@6c. White clover, in barrels and cans, 7@8c, according to quality. Beeswax, 30c.

THE FRED W. MUTH CO.

**BUFFALO, N. Y.**, Oct. 11.—The demand for white comb honey is better than it was. The trade in particular and wants only very white, clean stock. If the wax is yellow from travel, it does not sell well, and price has to be cut. Fancy white comb, 4@5c; No. 1, 13@14c; No. 1, 13@14c; No. 2, 12@13c; No. 3, 11@12c; No. 4 dark comb, 11@12c; No. 2, 10@11c. White extracted, 6@7c; amber, 6@7c; dark, 6@6c. Beeswax, 28@30c.

W. C. TOWNSEND.

**BOSTON**, Nov. 25.—Western honey is arriving more freely in our State, causing a slight drop in prices. Fancy No. 1, in cartons, brings 17c; A No. 1, 16c; No. 1, 15c. Extracted, white, 8@9c; light amber, 7@7c; amber, 6@7c, according to quality.

BLAKE, SCOTT &amp; LEE.

**KANSAS CITY**, Dec. 18.—Since our last quotations there have been two cars of western comb honey put on our market, and same is being sold (without any good reason) at prices not justified by market conditions. Fancy white comb, 34-section cases, \$1.65; No. 1, \$2.50; No. 2, \$2.40. Extracted, white per lb., 7@8c; amber, 6@6c. Beeswax, 25@30c.

C. C. CLEMONS &amp; CO.

**CINCINNATI**, Dec. 18.—The market on comb honey has weakened, as the supply has been larger than the demand. Fancy water-white 14c; off grades, lower. Extracted, amber, in barrels, 5@6c; in 60-lb. cans, 3c more; alfalfa, water-white, 6@6c; fancy white clover, 7@8c. Beeswax, good demand: 30c.

C. H. W. WEBER.

**NEW YORK**, Dec. 4.—Comb honey is arriving in sufficient quantities to supply the demand, and, as to the quality, most of the white honey seems to be off color, more or less. We quote fancy white at 14c; No. 1 at 13c; amber, 11@12c; and buckwheat, 10c. Extracted, light amber, at 6c; white, 6@7c; Southern, 55@60c per gallon; buckwheat, 5@6c. Beeswax, 28@29c.

HILDRETH &amp; SEEGLEN.

**SAN FRANCISCO**, Oct. 21.—White comb, 13@14 cents; amber, 9@11c. Extracted, white, 5@6c; light amber, 5@5c; amber, 4@5c. Beeswax, good to choice, light, 27@29c; dark, 25@26c.

Market is more quiet than for several weeks preceding, but is fairly steady as to value. Spot stocks and offerings of both comb and extracted are mainly of amber grades, while most urgent inquiry is principally for water-whites, the latter being the only kind meeting with much competitive bidding from buyers. Recent arrivals of honey included a lot of 121 cases from the Hawaiian Islands. The bees of the Islands feed mainly on sugar.

## 20,000 Pounds

White Extracted Alfalfa HONEY FOR SALE.

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Dr. Geo. D. MITCHELL & CO., Ogden, Utah.  
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are no better than those we make, and the chances are that they are not so good. If you buy of us you will not be disappointed. We are undersold by no one. Send for new catalog and price-list, and free copy of THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER; in its thirteenth year; 50 cents a year; especially for beginners.

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JAMESTOWN, N. Y.**

W. M. GERRISH, Epping, N.H., carries a full line of our goods at catalog prices. Order of him and save the freight.

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### You Will Have to Hurry

You will have to get your inquiries in before Dec. 15 if you secure the 10 percent discount on Dovetail Bee-Hives made of Michigan white pine.

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Very fine pure-bred BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK Chickens and Eggs for sale at very low prices.

**Langstroth on the Honey-Bee-Revised,**  
The classic in Bee-Culture—Price, \$1.20, by mail.

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at all times.

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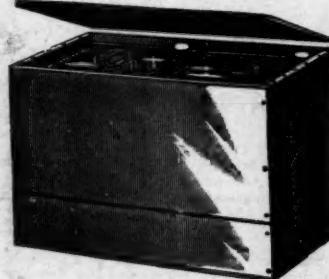
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### Basswood Honey

This is the well-known light-colored honey gathered from the rich, nectar-laden basswood blossoms. It has a stronger flavor than Alfalfa, and is preferred by those who like a distinct flavor in their honey.

Our honey is put up in tin cans holding 60 pounds of honey each. These cans are shipped in wooden-boxes, and should arrive safely. We have nothing but PURE BEES' HONEY to offer, and so guarantee it. Cash must accompany each order. All prices are f.o.b. Chicago.

#### Prices of Alfalfa Honey:

One 60-lb. Can @8c.....\$ 4.80  
Two 60-lb. Cans (in 1 box) @7½c 9.00  
(Larger quantities at the 7½c price.)

#### Prices of Basswood Honey:

One 60-lb. Can @9c.....\$ 5.40  
Two 60-lb. Cans (in 1 box) @8c.... 9.60  
(Larger quantities at the 8c price.)

A sample of either Alfalfa or Basswood honey will be mailed on receipt of 10 cents; samples of both kinds for 16 cents. (Stamps accepted.)

**BEESWAX WANTED**—We are paying 28 cents cash or 30 cents in trade for pure average beeswax delivered in Chicago (or Medina, Ohio).

**HONEY-JARS**—Don't forget to get our prices on all sorts of honey-packages.

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